

CHAMPION OF THE WORLD.

FITZSIMMONS WINS THE TITLE IN NINETEEN-FIVE SECONDS.

Fight Took place in an Almost Inaccessible Spot—Mayer Was Not in Good Condition and Was No Match for Fitz—A Challenge From Corbett.

Langtry, Texas, Feb. 21.—It took Robert Fitzsimmons just 55 seconds this afternoon to defeat Peter Maher and become the heavy weight champion of the world. The fight took place in the bottom of the Rio Grande river on the Mexican side, a mile and a half distant from the Langtry depot. Even to his friends it was evident that the Irish lad was not in it from the start. Before the bout had progressed 30 seconds Maher attempted a foul and was warned by the referee.

Fitzsimmons' coup was in the form of one of his famous upper hooks, with which he knocked out Hall and broke the nose of John S. Heenan, his first opponent. A fall-out effort to get upon his feet when time was called, but after getting half way to a recumbent position, he fell back and still had his head on the ground when time was called and the decision was awarded to the Cornish man.

When the train of sports arrived here from El Paso at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon there was no evidence that anything unusual was about to take place. Parties of excursionists from Eagle Pass and other points had been belated and only a few spectators of the country about Langtry had gathered at the depot. One company of the Texas Rangers guarded the depot while the remainder went down to the bottom of the river to witness the fight. The slightest effort was made to interfere with the sports in any of their movements.

When the word to move had been given the visitors, specially invited, who had been on the road for over 15 hours and journeyed 40 miles, the hardest part of the trip was yet to come. Following guides in straggling procession they went across the prairie for a distance of 50 yards and then commenced a precipitous descent of a seldom-used wagon road that runs in a circuitous way down the Rio Grande. Over the rocks, the sports now slipping on their backs, now clutching at a bramble to save themselves from a fall and a broken ankle, and now stubbing their toes against huge boulders, the sports descended to the point where a foot pontoon bridge had been stretched across the river, which swollen by recent rains had been changed from a sluggish stream to a roaring torrent. Once across the sports were on the bottom of the Mexican side and the canvas enclosure about the ring was to be seen in the distance. Five minutes more passed before the sports and sore-footed pedestrians to the entrance stairs, where Bart Masterson and Joe Vendig examined the tickets and passed the holders within.

AN IDEAL SPOT.

A more ideal spot for such an event could hardly have been selected. To the west, looking down to the enclosure, was a mountain five hundred feet in height, rugged and almost perpendicular. Across the river on the Texas side was its counterpart, and in its summit commanding a full view of the ring, were some 300 men and women, who looked like pigeons to those below. Between the two mountains and with a strong flow of water the river rushed with a dull roar. Heavily laden clouds overhead and occasional drops of rain completed the picture.

The circus canvass with which the battle ground was surrounded was 20 feet in circumference and 15 feet in height. The ring was composed of white pine covered with white duck and had an elevation of four feet. In the center of the ring were five tents for the convenience of the principals in making their final preparation. Fitzsimmons and Maher with their attendants, including the referee, entered the ring. Maher walked down but a few yards apart, both reaching the enclosure in a profuse state of perspiration. They were taken to their dressing rooms.

THE ANIMALS HOWL.

At 2:15 Fitzsimmons, enveloped in a flannel bath robe, emerged from his quarters and lounded up the steps of the ring. He selected as his corner the point to the west with his back to the Mexican mountain. Maher appeared a minute later and took his chair in the opposite corner, facing the Mexican side and his back to the spectators on the Texas side. In his corner Jim Hall, Buck Connolly, Peter Lowrey, Jack Quinn and Peter Hynes with "Parson" Davies acted as his time-keeper. Fitzsimmons had behind him Martin Julian, Jack Everhart, Jack Stelzner and Jack McCoy, while Bart Sneed of New Orleans acted as time-keeper. The gloves were procured from the referee and fitted on. The men were about to strip their overcoats when Julian called George Siler to the center of the ring and the two conversed quietly for a couple of minutes. Then Siler asked:

"Is Mr. O'Rourke here?"

"I am," responded the Bostonian.

"Have you the purse money?" Siler demanded.

"It is here," said O'Rourke, as he produced his wallet and waved two checks in the air. Fitzsimmons was watching the proceedings with keen interest. As the papers were produced, he yelled: "That stuff don't go, Julian. I want cash. How do we know what those are worth?"

"Did you cash those checks last night?" asked Siler of O'Rourke, while the crowd pressed in the neighborhood of the two men.

"Yes, I did," shouted the Boston man. "But you think I was fool enough to bring \$20,000 in me into such a place as this? It's the first time that my honesty has been questioned. I tell you that the money is in the bank."

Maher looked equally for a time. Julian looked at O'Rourke squarely in the face defiantly and said: "Nobody ever questioned your honesty, but we want the money. We will take it."

Then addressing the crowd he continued: "If there is any dissatisfaction, it is not our fault. We notified the responsible parties several days ago that Fitzsimmons would not fight unless the money was in the ring."

"Yes," declared Fitzsimmons from his corner, "and they said it would be." Parson Davies made a remark at this juncture to the effect that Julian was wasting time on nonsense and several of the spectators yelled: "Go on with the fight."

Julian retorted that the crowd had better keep their mouths shut as he did not intend to stand any derision from outsiders. The referee then stepped to the center and made a bound to the center of the ring. With his face inflamed with passion, he shouted: "We'll take the checks. I give in to every bloody thing they want. Do you understand? We give in to this, even if we don't get it."

The crowd breathed more freely and a rousing cheer was given for Fitzsimmons. The men then stripped.

THE OPPONENTS.

Fitz had chosen for his ring costume a navy blue breech cloth with a belt of stars and stripes. His legs were bare and his shoes of the standard running style. Maher wore short-legged black fighting pants with a green belt.

From the moment the men had entered the ropes, it was apparent to everybody that while the Cornish man was ready for the fray and for the most part his movement was nervous and ill at ease, his mouth moved incessantly as though he was chewing gum, his eyebrows twitched and he kept his thumb in his mouth, while the other Fitzsimmons eyed him with a sarcastic smile and his breast

heaved like that of an animal ready to bound for its prey.

At 4:20 when Referee Siler called both men to the center of the ring to give them their instructions and warn them against fouling or other infractions the crowd, the spectators enjoyed the first opportunity of seeing them face to face. Fitzsimmons presented a better appearance than in any of his previous encounters. His flesh was hard and pink and his veins stood out like whip cords. Maher, on the contrary, appeared somewhat flabby, while his movements on his feet lacked Siler's agility. That characterized some of Fitzsimmons. Manager Quinn had evidently been honest in the opinion that he gave the United Press a couple of days.

"Pete is not in the condition that I would like him to be in."

Time was called at 4:25 and the spectators pressed to the ropes. Fitzsimmons led with his left, Maher backed towards his corner. Fitzsimmons landed with his right and a clinch followed. Maher struck Fitzsimmons with his right hand while they were clinched and Referee Siler warned him that if he did so again he would give the fight to Fitzsimmons. After a breakaway Peter landed his left on Fitzsimmons' neck. Close in fighting followed and Maher succeeded in landing his left on Fitz's upper lip, drawing blood. Fitz landed his left on Maher's forehead and followed it with a right. A clinch followed. Maher feinted, and Fitz landed his right but fell short. A mix up followed in which Maher landed both right and left on either side of Fitz's head. Maher led with his left and another clinch followed. Fitz seemed a bit bothered and broke ground on Maher's heels. Maher followed him up and led with his left, when Fitz stepped and swinging his right landed a heavy blow on Maher's forehead. Maher measured his length on the floor, his head striking the canvas with great force. He vainly attempted to rise but Referee Siler called him to get up, but he failed to respond and sank back to the canvas. The fatal 10th round was counted and Maher was declared victor. Fitzsimmons announced the victory after one minute and 35 seconds rather lively fighting.

CHIEF THE CONQUEROR.

Fitzsimmons' admirers cheered him to the echo, and Maher's seconds carried the defeated Irishman to his corner. It was several minutes before he realized what had happened to him. Then Fitzsimmons walked over to his corner and shook him by the hand. Fitzsimmons' hands with Quinn and the seconds in Peter's corner.

Barring the slight bleeding at the nose, the occasion was a success. Maher, the Cornish man showed no marks of injury and appeared as fresh as at the opening of hostilities.

Maher showed no signs of punishment except a slight break in the skin just above the point of the chin where Fitzsimmons' master stroke had landed. When the cheering of the people around the ropes and the waving of handkerchiefs by those upon the mountain summit had in a measure subsided and Fitzsimmons had tired of bowing his appreciation, Julian took the center of the ring and made the following announcement with theatrical effect:

CHALLENGES THE WORLD.

"Gentlemen, Mr. Fitzsimmons has worked himself up from the bottom of the ladder and by the decision of the referee is now the champion of the world. He is ready to defend the title against all comers at any time or place. No man is barred and all comers will receive recognition."

Then came shouts of warning that the pontoon bridge was in danger of being washed away by the strong current. The fighters and assistants hastily gathered and the crowd of spectators fled for the Texas side. All got away safely.

MAHER'S EXCUSE.

Peter Maher and his following were a disappointed looking lot of individuals, as they tramped their way back across the rocks and sand to the train. Peter was unusually communicative.

"Well, it was a chance blow that did the work," he said. "I did the best I could under the circumstances. My condition was not of the best, but as a further postponement was to be considered by the Fitzsimmons crowd, I was obliged to go into the ring. My eyes were in worse condition than I believed them to be and my range of distance at fault. However, I still believe that I am able to whip Fitzsimmons or any other man in the world. If Fitzsimmons proves himself champion, I will challenge him again, and will be ready to meet him at any spot or at any time. It was not a bit over confident. I knew my condition better than any one else and fought Fitzsimmons only when his arbitrary actions made it necessary to do so or be proclaimed a coward."

Immediately after the fight, Mr. Rector, on behalf of the sportsmen, offered Fitzsimmons and Maher a purse of \$500 to be in battle trim for to-morrow. Fitzsimmons declared that he would agree to put Maher out in six rounds, but insisted on selecting his own time and place. He declared that under no circumstances would he fight before a kinesiograph unless for a purse of \$10,000 and 50 per cent of the profits. He based his position on the fact that the Kinesiograph people had persistently ignored him and now he was in a position to defeat them. Nothing came of the proposition.

After returning to the depot and while waiting for the departure of the train to El Paso, Fitz was surrounded by a crowd of admirers who shook his hands and congratulated him on his victory. He bore his new honors with characteristic self-satisfaction. He said that the battle was almost too easy for him, that he drew away from the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieftains, came to a halt when the railway station leaving only representatives of the Press associations installed in the hamlet for the next 24 hours.

The departure signal was a discharge of cartriges as a salute from the Texas Rangers, who from the point of vantage in the

THE RETURN.

At precisely 6 o'clock the train bearing the victor and the vanquished, and their admirers and chieft